

# LITERARY NEWS and CRITICISM

## Mr. Bryce's Studies of South American Traits.

**SOUTH AMERICA: IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS.** By James Bryce, author of "The Holy Roman Empire," "The American Commonwealth," etc. With maps. 8vo, pp. xiv, 611. The Macmillan Company.

From even a much less authoritative hand and brain than Mr. Bryce's this book would be welcome, as a contribution to our information of that continent which is, as Mr. Bryce himself regards it, the least known of all in the world. There is, it is true, a considerable and respectable bibliography of South America, a few items of which are commended in a note at the end of this book; yet it is meagre indeed in contrast with that of other continents, and few of its items have commanded wide popular attention. Down to less than twenty years ago the major part of South America was known to us chiefly in an academic or a traditional fashion.

Mr. Bryce's animated narratives and often hauntingly graphic and picturesque descriptions greatly heighten the persuasive significance of his considerations on the political conditions and prospects of the South American states. On some topics he writes in not unskillful competition with others, but on these with the authority of an expert. He writes, too, in a sympathetic strain. Doubtless he saw much which excited his displeasure. But he scrupulously avoids the expression of such feelings. Scorn and censoriousness have no place on his pages. When it is necessary to record and to describe the less agreeable features of South American life and civilization he does it in a detached and academic manner, without reproach or passion. He writes, also, appreciatively, perceiving the real national character and national sentiment which exist in the chief states just as unerringly as he perceives the rugged grandeur of the Andes or the marvellous tinting of the harbor of Rio de Janeiro. Chili, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Brazil "may all be deemed to be nations in the European sense of the word."

There is no doubt a certain community or similarity among all the Spanish-American peoples:

A Costa Rican and an Argentine differ less than a Texan does from a Devonshire man, or a Calithian man from a Devonshire man. They are nearer to one another than North Americans are to Englishmen. They have the broad features of Spanish character and temperament—the love of honor, the sense of personal dignity, steady courage in war, and the power of patient endurance. And among men of education and thought the basis of intellectual character and the sense of moral values seems to be substantially the same.

Nevertheless, there is only a weak feeling of common Hispano-American brotherhood. Against alien foes Argentina and Chili and Peru cordially co-operated. But instead of this co-operation becoming a basis of fraternity it has been followed by the bitterest of antagonisms. The various republics are likely to pursue their separate ways, therefore, and to develop individual characteristics:

The only thing that to-day would draw the republics into line and knit them together would be any threat of aggression from outside. They have long ceased to fear invasion, still less subjugation, by any European power. But the enormous strength of the United States and the recent events make them watch the actions of that country with a sensitive suspicion which even the correctness of her conduct in twice evacuating Cuba has not entirely dispelled.

An interesting chapter is given to the relations of the races, native, immigrant and imported, which is full of suggestion to other lands in which "race problems" exist. Despite the diversity of blood in South America and the traditional pride of the ruling race, there is no such problem there. In respect of civil rights there is no distinction between the Indian and the whites. It is true that the Indians generally—of course, not invariably—have a status inferior to that of the whites. But that is not because they are Indians, but because they are, as a rule, intrinsically inferior, mentally and physically. The Indian may thus be despised as a weakling, and even ignored as a citizen, but he excites no personal repulsion. "It is not his race that is against him, but his debased condition. Whatever he suffers is suffered because he is ignorant or timid or helpless, not because he is of a different blood or color."

## MUNICIPAL WELFARE

**Government by Commission: Its Results and Scope.**

**THE NEW CITY GOVERNMENT.** A Discussion of Municipal Administration Based on a Survey of Ten Commission Governed Cities. By Henry Bruere, Director of the New York Bureau of Municipal Research, William Shepherson, of the staff of the Bureau of Municipal Research, co-operating in the collection and tabulation of material respecting commission government. 12mo, pp. xxii, 438. D. Appleton & Co.

This is the fourth of the Metz Fund Handbooks of City Business Methods to be published. Its three predecessors dealing respectively with municipal accounting, budget making, and purchasing and storekeeping. The step from these aids to increased efficiency in municipal administration under prevailing conditions to this study of city government by commission is a natural one. The author has based it on the results obtained and the problems presented in ten American cities out of the two hundred or more where this form of municipal administration has obtained for different lengths of time. They are Cedar Rapids and Des Moines, Iowa; Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita, Kan.; Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston and Houston, Tex., and Huntington, W. Va. They were selected for three reasons: Length of time during which the plan had been in operation, size and location.

The objectives of the movement for

latter race is numerous and in some regions predominant.

Upon the ultimate result of this fusion of races Mr. Bryce looks with uncertainty. In Brazil some of the ablest and most cultivated men have touches of negro blood, and in Peru and elsewhere men of mixed race are often of high social, intellectual and moral standing. Three conclusions are arrived at by a study of these relations. One is, that the fusion of two parent stocks, one more advanced, the other more backward, does not necessarily produce a race inferior to the stronger parent or superior to the weaker. Another is, that conquest and control by a race of greater strength have upon some races a depressing and almost ruinous effect. The third is, that race repugnance—even of Caucasians against negroes—is no such constant and permanent factor in human affairs as members of the Teutonic peoples are apt to assume. It seems to the author certain that in time there will be a complete fusion of races in most of South America, so that Brazil will become Ibero-American-African, and all the rest save the purely white Argentina and Uruguay will become Ibero-American. The quality of the resultant mixed race he does not venture to predict. There is, of course, fear of deterioration, but it is too soon to be despondent. "There may be in the Indian stock a reserve of strength, dormant, but not extinct, ready to respond to a new stimulus and to shoot upwards under more inspiring conditions."

South Americans, Mr. Bryce thinks, are inclined to resent the notion that they are dependent upon the United States for protection under the Monroe Doctrine, welcome as that once was. They have become so strong and stable, some of them, that they are able to look out for themselves, and are worthy to rank with us as a part of the international police force of this hemisphere. They desire, however, to be on good terms with us, and their wisest statesmen appreciate the value of our diplomatic action in trying to preserve peace among them. Yet they are jealous of their own dignity and not at all disposed to be patronized. Therefore, "it is as the disinterested, the absolutely disinterested and unselfish, advocate of peace and good will that the United States will have most influence in the Western Hemisphere, and that influence, gently and tactfully used, may be of incalculable service to mankind."

Nor are the relations between South America and Europe as intimate, in Mr. Bryce's view, as some have supposed. Few South Americans take any such interest in Spain as people of the United States do in England and the other countries from which their ancestors came. They have no link of free institutions brought from the old soil to flourish in the new. Between Italy and Latin America the only connection was ecclesiastical until in recent years, when Italian immigrants began to pour into Argentina and Southern Brazil; but while there is now a good deal of intercourse, this has not led to any closer connection, either political or intellectual. With England and Germany the commercial relations of most South American countries are close and constant, and the people of the latter acquaint themselves to some degree with the arts of the former and adopt some of their customs. But the essential genius of the two is so different that between them there is little more than reciprocal good will and what Carlyle called the "cash nexus."

For France, however, the South Americans have a strong intellectual affinity; Paris is the favorite resort of all who can go thither, who are many; and in the drama and art, in literature and society, throughout most of South America French influence is supreme. Nevertheless, South Americans regard themselves as a new thing in the world, a racial group with a character all their own; and this proposition Mr. Bryce neither affirms or denies, though he is obviously inclined to regard its realization as probable. The phantasm of European conquest of South America he does not dignify with consideration. The continued independence of that continent is assured, and that means that its nations will continue to develop their own types more sharply and definitely as time passes and life becomes for them more rich and intense.

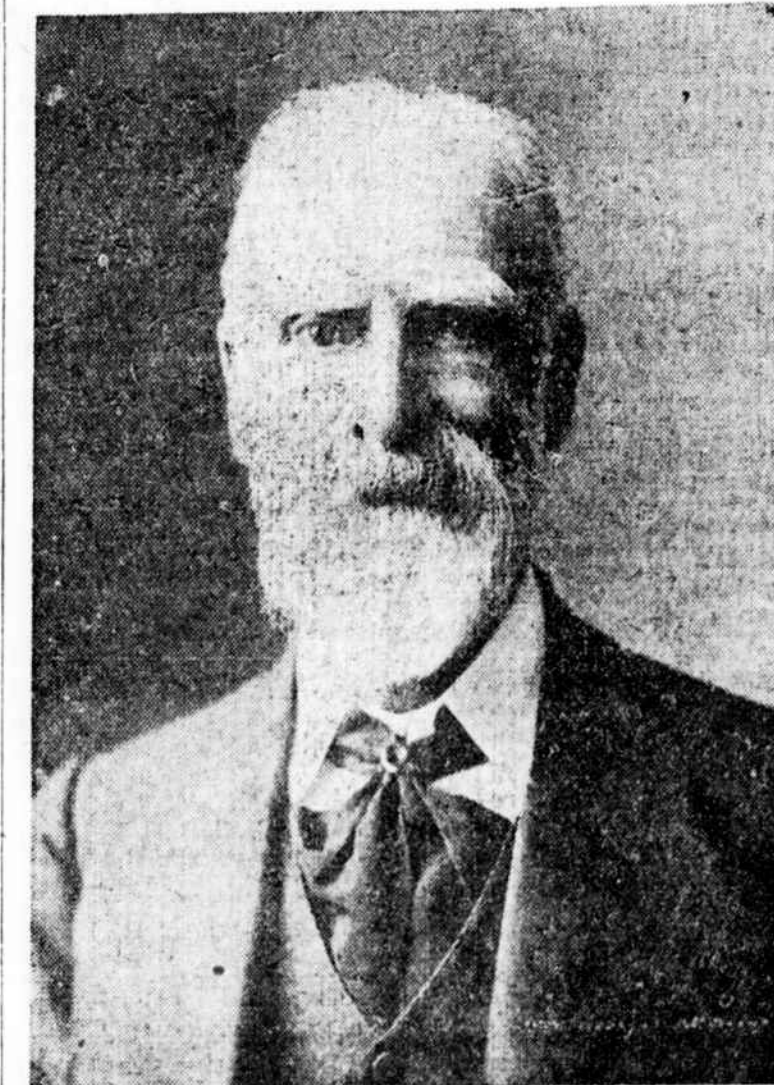
Frank Osbaldestone is Scott, through and through, more completely, perhaps than any of his heroes. And the love episodes in that novel can, again, have only one basis—Scott's first and fondest attachment. The library scenes where Frank and Di read Ariosto together—above all, that brief, fearful farewell spoken in the moonlight—are clearly autobiographical. It has been shown, too, that Frank's political creed is Scott's own; Jacobitism offends his judgment while appealing to his sentiment. He is no stinger, but is said to have sung a song while drunk. The same incident happened to Scott. The Osbaldestones, like the Scotts, are a long descended family of country gentlemen, and Frank's father, like Scott's, has been the first to engage in business. Frank, like Scott, hated the drudgery of a commercial life. It went against his grain and so he escaped from its treadmill. Even so, Scott longed to be free from the weary round of purely mundane affairs and to occupy instead the coveted position of a landed proprietor.

An entertaining chapter deals with Lord Forbes of Pitsligo, the old Jacobite, who undoubtedly sat for the portrait of the Baron of Bradwardine. He died nine years before the novelist was born, but his character and career "were on everybody's lips" when the novelist was a boy. Forbes was sixty-seven when he took the field with a hundred men in the rebellion of the Forty-five. When the folly failed the old man went into hiding on the countryside with a price upon his head and with every peasant on his

efficiency in city government. Mr. Bruere points out, are not merely low taxes, and the economical performance of routine functions, the application, in other words, of honest and thorough private business methods to municipal affairs. Beyond these there is what has come to be collectively described as "welfare work," the suppression and subsequent prevention of all influences and conditions militating against the public good, and its promotion by all available means—social service.

The inquiry conducted by Mr. Bruere is a comprehensive one. It appears to cover all phases of the subject, with, as résumés, community impressions obtained through interviews with citizens representing all classes and conditions. Without efficiency from top to bottom, city government by commission will fail. This is Mr. Bruere's text, to which he constantly returns:

Even commission government gives shelter to work methods that efficient private enterprises discarded a generation ago. Not even the adoption of the board of directors' analogy dispels the false notion that because of peculiar government conditions public business methods must be different in principle from private



THE HON. JAMES BRYCE.  
(From a photograph.)

business methods. Contagion in commission government has not meant contagion in the adoption of efficient business methods.

Still, gains have been made all along the line. The book is a serviceable addition to the literature already available on its subject.

## WALTER SCOTT'S ORIGINALS

**A Book of Biographical Anecdote.**

**THE SCOTT ORIGINALS.** An Account of Notable and Worthwhile Originals of Characters in the Waverley Novels. By W. S. Crockett. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 62. Charles Scribner's Sons.

For the lovers of Walter Scott—and that he is the Well Beloved of successive generations the prosaic records of publishers testify—Mr. Crockett has written a book of genuine value. To find the mass of information gathered here concerning the characters in the Waverley Novels the reader would be obliged to range far afield;—the greater should be his gratitude to one who has performed the task for him and performed it with contagious enjoyment and enthusiasm. The book is delightful in its text, and in its illustrations it is unique. The portraits, some of which are hitherto unpublished, include that unfamiliar one by Graham Lindsay which is believed to be the last for which Scott sat. A particularly interesting facsimile is that of the marriage contract of the unhappy original of the Bride of Lammermoor, with her signature, "Janet Dalrymple," traced waveringly, as in desperation.

Mr. Crockett points out that Scott never put a living personage into his books, though so many of his characters had traceable originals. He painted in "composites," we are reminded, and was continually drawing material from his own character and sentiments and foibles, and from many of his own experiences. The personal element in "Rob Roy," the author holds, is especially striking:

Frank Osbaldestone is Scott, through and through, more completely, perhaps than any of his heroes. And the love episodes in that novel can, again, have only one basis—Scott's first and fondest attachment. The library scenes where Frank and Di read Ariosto together—above all, that brief, fearful farewell spoken in the moonlight—are clearly autobiographical. It has been shown, too, that Frank's political creed is Scott's own; Jacobitism offends his judgment while appealing to his sentiment. He is no stinger, but is said to have sung a song while drunk. The same incident happened to Scott. The Osbaldestones, like the Scotts, are a long descended family of country gentlemen, and Frank's father, like Scott's, has been the first to engage in business. Frank, like Scott, hated the drudgery of a commercial life. It went against his grain and so he escaped from its treadmill. Even so, Scott longed to be free from the weary round of purely mundane affairs and to occupy instead the coveted position of a landed proprietor.

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estate loyal and helpful. He lived in caves and found occasional nights of comfort in a cottage bed offered by some one of these peasants. There are many stories of his lucky escapes from patrols of soldiers sent to arrest him. In the guise of a beggar he once sat in a farmhouse when soldiers came to ask the good wife to give them a guide to Pitsligo's suspected place of concealment. She had nobody to send with them, she said, "unless that travelling man would take the trouble." The "travelling man," otherwise the ragged beggar, otherwise Pitsligo, obligingly rose up and went with King George's men to show them the cave which, in his own person, he had actually been inhabiting. It was a humorous situation and Pitsligo was the man to enjoy it.

The story that it was John Paterson, the son of Old Mortality, who came to America and became the father of Betsy Paterson Bonaparte, of Baltimore, is finally disproved by Mr. Crockett. It was a William Paterson, of another family—one of Scots origin, settled in the north of Ireland—who was the father of Jerome Bonaparte.

The inner sanctuary of our proceedings was a common drawing room between two bedchambers shared by Schurz and me. Here we repaired after supper to smoke the pipe of fraternity and reform and to save the country. What could be done to kill off "D. Davis," as we irreverently called the eminent and learned jurist, the friend of Lincoln, and the only aspirant having a "bar"? That was the question. We addressed ourselves to the task with earnest purpose, but characteristically. The power of the press must be invoked. It was our chief, if not our only weapon. Each of us indited a leading editorial for his paper, to be wired to its destination and printed next morning, striking "D. Davis" at a prearranged and varying angle. Copies of these were made for Halsted, who, having with the rest of us read and compared the different screeds, indited one of his own in general comment and review for Cincinnati consumption. In next day's "Commercial," blazing under vivid headlines, these leading editorials, dated "Chicago," "New York," "Springfield, Mass.," and "Louisville, Ky.," appeared with the explaining line, "The Tribune of to-morrow morning, and the 'Courier-Journal' or 'Republican' will say," etc.

Wondrous consensus of public opinion! The Davis boomers went down before it. The Davis boomers were paralyzed. The earth seemed to have arisen and hit them amidships. The incoming delegates were stopped and forewarned. Six months of adroit scheming was set at naught, and little more was heard of "D. Davis."

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At the psychological moment Gratz Brown made his speech in the convention. "The result was," says Colonel Watterson, "that Greeley was nominated amid a whirl of enthusiasm, his workers, with Whitelaw Reid at their head, having maintained an admirable and effective organization and being thoroughly prepared to take advantage of the opportune moment. . . . The impossible had come to pass. . . . The Quadrilateral had been knocked into a cocked hat. Whitelaw Reid was the sole survivor.

## GREELY.

**Colonel Watterson on the Campaign of 1872.**

Nearly thirty years ago "The Century" began to publish that long series of papers on the Civil War which owed so much of its importance to contributions from men who had themselves fought the great fight. Now, with the passage of time, the same periodical finds itself in a position to launch another series that is in some sort a sequel to the first, relating the great events in American progress marking the half century that has elapsed since the war. In this "After-the-War" series such subjects are to be treated as the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, the acquisition of Alaska, the settlement of the Alabama Claims, "Black Friday," the triumph of Civil Service Reform, the diplomacy of the war with Spain, the progress of conservation and the organization of labor.

It is a fine journalistic scheme, and it is interesting to note that each subject in the series will be treated "by a prominent American journalist having particular acquaintance with the theme." Appropriately, too, a great

journalist is the hero of the opening paper, which appears in the November number of "The Century." Therein Colonel Henry Watterson writes on "The Humor and Tragedy of the Greeley Campaign," appending to his chapter of history comments by Whitelaw Reid and Horace White, to whom, as colleagues of his in the famous campaign of 1872, he had sent copies of his manuscript. If succeeding papers are as good as this one, the series will be notable indeed.

Following a brief description of the extraordinarily strained political conditions leading up to the Liberal Republican Convention which was to sound the slogan of Reform, he describes himself as "a young fellow of two and thirty, of boundless optimism, and with my full share of self-confidence," casting in his fortunes with those of three other newspaper men, "Sam" Bowles, Horace White and Murat Halsted, to back either Charles Francis Adams or Lyman Trumbull for the Presidential nomination. The editorial "Quadrilateral" had planned to keep itself to itself, but it found that it had to reckon with The Tribune, and Whitelaw Reid, who enforced that fact, entered into the newspaper "combine."

He was the only one of us who clearly understood the situation and thoroughly knew what he was about. The victor gave the others a dinner, but the conviviality was under a frost. "Horace White looked more than ever like an iceberg," Sam Bowles was diplomatic, but ineffectual; Schurz was as a death's head at the board; Halsted and I through sheer bravado tried to enliven the feast. But they would none of us, nor it, and we separated early and sadly, reformers hoist by their own petard."

Proceeding to the campaign, Colonel Watterson tells how the people rose to Greeley's nomination and his story of the struggle is void of any trace of old chagrin; it is full, instead, of a fairly affectionate sympathy for the candidate imposed upon him. Here is part of his tribute:

Horace Greeley was a queer old man, a very medley of contradictions, shrewd and simple, credulous and penetrating, a master penman of the school of Swift and Cobbett, even in his old, picturesque personality whimsically attractive and, as Seward learned to his cost, a man to be reckoned with where he chose to put his powers forth.

What he would have done with the Presidency had he reached it is not easy to say or to surmise. He was altogether unqualified for official life, for which, nevertheless, he had a longing. But he

as well as old. It was forced still more urgently, Mr. Lapworth points out, by the land grabbing along the northern coast of Africa, which were long would have left her no foothold on that shore. It was not France in Tunis whom she feared, but Germany, cultivating the Sultan's friendship, and preparing, so he maintains, to claim a coaling station on the coast of Cyrenaica as her reward. According to our author, the appearance of the Panther before Agadir was the deciding cause of the conquest of Tripoli.

The international consequences which he ascribes to this resolute and unexpected action will, to put it mildly, seem somewhat exaggerated to the impartial reader. That Italy has by it suddenly made herself the all-important, deciding factor in the alignment of the great powers of Europe may well be doubted, if, indeed, her position can be said to have been advanced at all. In fact, the "cockiness" of this part of the book is rather out of proportion, and somewhat amusing in its youthful ardor. One wonders, also, whether its bitter denunciations of Germany and its Emperor are the English Mr. Lapworth's own, or those of Young Italy. But, if one is inclined to take these conclusions and opinions with reservation, the facts of current international policies as given here, are decidedly worth while, especially in the case of Italy's official and real relations with her old oppressor and present ally, Austria, who certainly was acting in a very suspicious manner at the time of the Tripolitan adventure, under the influence, so it is said, of the heir of the throne. The Trentino and the Balkans combine to make the partnership an unnatural one. So far as Italia Irredenta is concerned, pan-Germanism, with its enormous resources, is constantly winning ground, especially by its control of educational institutions. As for Great Britain, she, too, gets a good wiggling, not only for her policies, but also because "ever since, fifty years ago, a few Britishers befriended and banqueted the Italian exiles, they have constantly been reminding Italy of all she owes them." Mr. Lapworth is even more severe on the "peculiar workings of the Nonconformist conscience" and on the "ridiculous pacifists." But all this is youthful ebullience. His defence of the Italian troops against the Turkish charges of atrocities is brief. The world, seeing their source, did not credit them long. As for the future of Tripoli under its new rulers, that is rosy as the dawn, and lined with gold.

The book is a revealing study of the temper of a nation that feels itself young in a dream rebirth of the Roman Empire. It is a demand, not a plea, for justice based upon knowledge of what has been achieved and what will be achieved, and it communicates the knowledge to its readers.

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They thought that they were taking him into camp, but all the time, as he says in his postscript to Colonel Watterson's paper, "I was comforting myself with the belief that I was taking the Quadrilateral into camp, and should find them very useful articles to begin housekeeping with," a belief that as the issue showed was well founded. This is where the "Humor" begins. The Adams-Trumbull four thought that everything would go their way, and they were certainly encouraged in this conviction by their success in killing the boom for Judge David Davis. The Colonel's account of the killing makes one of his most diverting passages:

The inner sanctuary of our proceedings was a common drawing room between two bedchambers shared by Schurz and me. Here we repaired after supper to smoke the pipe of fraternity and reform and to save the country. What could be done to kill off "D. Davis," as we irreverently called the eminent and learned jurist, the friend of Lincoln, and the only aspirant having a "bar"? That was the question. We addressed ourselves to the task with earnest purpose, but characteristically. The power of the press must be invoked. It was our chief, if not our only weapon. Each of us indited a leading editorial for his paper, to be wired to its destination and printed next morning, striking "D. Davis" at a prearranged and varying angle. Copies of these were made for Halsted, who, having with the rest of us read and compared the different screeds, indited one of his own in general comment and review for Cincinnati consumption. In next day's "Commercial," blazing under vivid headlines, these leading editorials, dated "Chicago," "New York," "Springfield, Mass.," and "Louisville, Ky.," appeared with the explaining line, "The Tribune of to-morrow morning, and the 'Courier-Journal' or 'Republican' will say," etc.

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